



PAUL CUNNINGHAM

WARD 2

April 14, 2016

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PAUL'S NOTE

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One of the suggested budget cuts that was brought forward to Mayor and Council over the last couple of weeks is closing City pools during the winter.

I've heard from a lot of you who are opposed to this idea. I agree, although I didn't need a lot of convincing.

The proposal came from Parks and Recreation as part of the belt tightening that all departments are being asked to do. There are only four year around pools, plus six more with "extended seasons" that cover some of the winter. The savings turns out to be about \$212,000, which isn't a lot given the overall budget for Parks. Given how much good keeping these pools

open during the winter, I think that it is appropriate to ask if there are better places to look for savings.

It goes without saying that swimming is a perfect form of exercise in a community with a climate like ours. Providing recreational opportunities like public pools is a big part of the quality of life that Tucson has to offer. It's one of the reasons I've fought so hard during my time on the council for funding our parks and also making sure that they meet the needs of the communities they serve.

Right here in Ward 2, we have Udall Pool. The pool is open all year around and includes a 25 yard lap swimming course. It gets a lot of use and is part of the recrea-

tional and wellness routines of many of our neighbors.

One of the facilities that stays open year around is the Edith Ball Adaptive Recreation Center. It's nestled between Hi Corbett Field and the zoo, and hosts many fitness classes. It also has a fully accessible therapy pool for the use of our neighbors with disabilities.

That therapy pool, as one letter writer informed me, is the only one available for those that don't have a doctor's prescription. Here is what she told me:

"I had my third back surgery in January 2015 and I don't know how I would be where I am now without the exercise that I've been able to

PAUL'S NOTE, CONTINUED

do in the Edith Ball Therapeutic Pool. I've used the pool for over 3 years now about twice weekly before my surgery and now I use it three times a week. It has made a huge difference in my recovery."

Here's another e-mail I got:

"Without the pool, the progression of our disabilities will force us to turn to more expensive care as we lose the various physical abilities required to take care of ourselves and many of us are not only maintaining but improving. Using the pool keeps us mobile and able to maintain an independent life."

Or...

"I take a 92-year old neighbor to this pool twice a week. She has stroke induced dementia. The exercise not only helps her with her walk better, it helps her ability to recall information. She looks forward to our outings and would be very, very upset if the pool closed."

I have gotten letters from folks all over Tucson. Most of them either use Edith Ball or have friends and relatives that do. I have also heard from people that use winter pools at Sunnyside, Clements, Udall and Catalina.

We have heard a lot of ideas about where programs should be cut, but something that provides so much benefit to the region that is relatively low cost is something that we should be keeping. There will be some cuts in this budget. City pools will not be one of them.

CHILDREN'S ROLE MODEL

The Children's Museum and Arizona Bilingual Newspaper invite all children of ages 7-12 to send us a letter of who their Role Model is. We will award the winners on April 30th at the Children's Festival. All community leaders will be present that day! Additionally, all winners will have the opportunity to shadow some time with their "Role Models" after the event Please send your letter to: 245 S. Plumer Ave. Ste 14, Tucson, AZ. 85719 or by email at chidrensfestival@azbilingual.com

For more information, visit azbilingual.com or childrensmuseumtucson.org



COMMEMORATIVE TREES

Tucson Clean & Beautiful, in cooperation with the City of Tucson and Pima County, announce the availability of commemorative trees along the Pantano River Park. Commemorative trees are available for purchase through Tucson Clean & Beautiful for \$225 each (partially tax-deductible), including the tree, irrigation lines and number marker installation, name dedication at a commemorative plaza, dedication certificate and guaranteed replacement. Trees may be purchased for dedication honoring special occasions, or in remembrance of any friend or family member.

Visit www.tucsoncleanandbeautiful.org/commemorative-tree-parksto to dedicate a commemorative tree, or call B. J. Cordova at (520) 837-6832 for assistance.

The new Pantano River Park Commemorative Tree Program is based upon the success of the completed El Paseo de los Arboles commemorative tree project where 600 trees were added on the Santa Cruz River bank. Over the next several years, dedicated trees will restore more than two miles of natural habitat, and will grow to provide shade for users of this multi-use path. More than 275 trees already have been planted of the 570 trees that eventually will fill this park.

A dedication ceremony will be held May 6 at Pantano River Park, 1750 S Pantano Parway and will include a reading of the names for whom trees have been dedicated, and names inscribed at the nearby Children's Memorial Garden. An informal walking tour of newly-dedicated trees concludes the ceremony. Light refreshments will be provided.

TAX AND LICENSE WORKSHOP

Learn your rights and responsibilities for the Transaction Privilege (sales) Tax by attending a Tax and License Workshop sponsored by the City of Tucson Finance Department.

Questions will be answered, and written materials will be available. Samples of sales tax records, worksheets, and monthly returns will be explained. You should bring a calculator and a pencil.

A workshop for retail questions will be held next Thursday, April 21, 10:30 a.m.- noon, at the Westside Police Service Center, 1310 W. Miracle Mile. Another workshop for contracting will be held Thursday, April 28, at the same time and location. To reserve a seat, please email Taxpayer-Education@tucsonaz.gov or call (520) 791-4681. When you make your reservation, please explain the activities and subjects which you are interested in reviewing.

CAROL WEST SENIOR CENTER

Fashion Show Field Trip: Seniors will have an opportunity to enjoy a fashion show field trip on Tuesday, April 12. The show will be presented by the Freedom Center's Sewing Club. Departure of the Udall Center is 10 a.m. and return is 1:30 p.m. Coffee and snacks will be served.

Pickle-ball: A Pickle-ball Clinic for beginners will be offered on April 20, and 27 from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. There is a daily fee/membership required. Register for one of all three days. Visit the main building of Udall Center to sign up.

For more information, please contact the Carol West Senior Addition, 791-4121

PARKS PROGRAMS

Udall Pool Spring Hours: The Udall Pool located at 7200 E Tanque Verde Rd will begin its Spring schedule on April 1st. Call 791-4004 for pool hours and additional information.

Summer 2016 Activity Guide: Watch for the Summer Tucson Parks and Recreation 2016 Activity Guide which will be published on Monday, April 18, 2016. The

Activity Guide will have complete information on classes, programs, aquatics, and registration. The guide can also be viewed at www.ezeereg.com.

Contact Registration Services at 791-4877 for more information or questions.



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Remember to like
Paul on Facebook!

Please bring these items to the Ward 2 Office
for the following charities:

**THE COMMUNITY FOOD BANK—Non Perishable
Items**

**DIAPER BANK OF SOUTHERN ARIZONA—
Infant/Child/Adult Diapers**

**TIHAN - Personal Care Items for Individuals
and Families in Need**

LIONS CLUB—Eye Glasses

**DANCING IN THE STREETS ARIZONA—Ballet/
Dance Equipment**

CASA MARIA—Plastic bags

MAYOR AND COUNCIL

The next Mayor and Council meeting will be on **Tuesday, April 19**. Regular Session starts at 5:30 pm following an afternoon study session.

There is always a short call to the audience before the business portion of the meeting. Council chambers are located downtown at 255 W Alameda.

The agendas for the meetings are posted online at <http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/clerks/mcdocs>

